

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-6, 8, and 9 is acknowledged with appreciation. Without acceding to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Claims 1 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 4 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form (with minor editorial revisions). Claims 2, 5, 6, and 9 have been editorially revised to improve consistency, the objection to Claim 2 also having been addressed.

Accordingly, this application is in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper

and has not been requested separately, then such extension  
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

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